

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 7, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005—06 REGULAR SESSION

## **Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 40**

**Introduced by Assembly Members Lieber and Leno**

***(Coauthors: Assembly Members Arambula, Baca, Berg, Bermudez, Blakeslee, Calderon, Canciamilla, Chan, Chavez, Chu, Cohn, Daucher, De La Torre, Dymally, Evans, Frommer, Goldberg, Hancock, Jerome Horton, Shirley Horton, Houston, Jones, Karnette, Klehs, Koretz, Laird, Levine, Liu, Matthews, Mullin, Nava, Negrete McLeod, Nunez, Parra, Richman, Ridley-Thomas, Ruskin, Saldana, Salinas, Spitzer, Torrico, Umberg, Vargas, Wolk, and Yee)***

March 15, 2005

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 40—Relative to the 85th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 40, as amended, Lieber. League of Women Voters' 85th Anniversary.

This measure would recognize the origins and accomplishments of the League of Women Voters, and would memorialize the 85th anniversary of that organization.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In the year 1911, California became the sixth
- 2 state to give women the right to vote; and
- 3 WHEREAS, In the year 1920, after decades of fighting for the
- 4 right to vote, women believed they had a responsibility to

1 participate in public debate, and to educate voters about the  
2 important issues of the day; and

3 WHEREAS, On February 14, 1920, at the final convention of  
4 the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Chicago,  
5 the League of Women Voters was born, in anticipation of the  
6 ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States  
7 Constitution, which would provide a constitutional guarantee of  
8 a woman's right to vote; and

9 WHEREAS, In the 1920's, the League of Women Voters  
10 secured passage of the first federal maternal and infant health  
11 care program, the Sheppard-Towner Act; and

12 WHEREAS, In the 1930's, the League worked diligently on  
13 American foreign policy and received an award for its efforts  
14 from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation; and

15 WHEREAS, In the 1960's and 1970's the League fought  
16 against discrimination in education, employment, and housing  
17 and built citizen support for economic opportunities; and

18 WHEREAS, The League is a nonpartisan organization that has  
19 fought for a wide-variety of issues, from free trade and the  
20 creation of the United Nations to civil rights and compulsory  
21 public education; and

22 WHEREAS, Other causes the League has championed include  
23 education programs to counter attacks on civil liberties, nuclear  
24 arms control, environmental regulation, a responsible state  
25 budgeting process, and protection of the rights of voters; and

26 WHEREAS, The League continues to battle for campaign  
27 finance reform, United States support of emerging democracies,  
28 universal healthcare, and reform of the electoral system; and

29 WHEREAS, The League may best be known for its  
30 sponsorship of political debates, and providing voters with a  
31 nonpartisan, issue-oriented forum from which they may make  
32 informed decisions; and

33 WHEREAS, In California, the League of Women Voters has  
34 continually provided reliable nonpartisan information to voters  
35 through its printed Pros & Cons on ballot measures, through its  
36 debates for certain elected offices, through its forums held  
37 throughout the state on critical topics such as state and local  
38 finance, growth and infrastructure, and constitutional revision,  
39 and through its creation of the internationally honored online

1 election guide, Smart Voter, promoting informed citizen  
2 participation at all levels of government; and

3 WHEREAS, Across the United States, the League has 900  
4 local and state Leagues, including 69 local Leagues and more  
5 than 11,000 members in California; and

6 WHEREAS, The commitment of its members has transformed  
7 the League of Women Voters from “the mighty political  
8 experiment” that began in 1920, when it was designed to help 20  
9 million newly enfranchised women carry out their voting  
10 responsibilities, to what it is today: a unique, nonpartisan  
11 organization of men and women recognized as a force in  
12 mentoring political leaders, shaping public policy, and promoting  
13 informed citizen participation at all levels of government; now,  
14 therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
16 *thereof concurring*, That the people of California hereby  
17 recognize the important and unique contributions of the League  
18 of Women Voters during its 85-year history as a nonpartisan  
19 organization dedicated to increasing voter awareness and  
20 participation; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit  
22 sufficient copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate  
23 distribution.